

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC,SOCI
SUBJECT: EC SOCIAL COUNCIL DECEMBER 9, 1976 RESULTS

1.SUMMARY: DURING ITS DECEMBER 9 SESSION,THE EC SOCIAL COUNCIL: (1)APPROVED A DIRECTIVE ON SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF LEGAL TRANSFER OF ESTABLISHMENT OR COMPANY MERGER: (2)DISCUSSED COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EC COMMU IO ON HUMANIZATION OR WORKING CONDITIONS,VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE,SCHOOLING OF CHILDREN OFMIGRANT WORKERS,AND STANDARIDIZATIO OF FAMILY BENEFITS PAYMENTS;(3)RECEIVED A COMMISSION REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL FUND ; AND (4)DISCUSSED A REPORT FROM FORMER EC COMMISSIONER (NOW IRISH PRESIDENT)PATRICK HILLERY ON PROGRESS IN EC SOCIAL POLICY.END SUMMARY.

2.DIRECTIVE ON SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

THE COUNCIL APPROVED ISSUANCE OF A DIRECTIVE AIMED AT HARMINIZING NATIONAL PROVISIONS FOR SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYEE RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF LEGAL TRANSFER OR COMPANY MERGER. DETAILS OF THE DIRECTIVE WILL BE REPORTED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

3.HUMANIZATION OF WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED A COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON HUMANIZATION OF WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS. AMONG PRIORITIES TO BE CONSIDERED,THE MINISTERS TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF THE PROBLEMS OF CONTINUOUS AND SEMI-
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CONTINUOUS SHIFT WORK AND OF HYGIENE AND SAFETY.

THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THIS GENERAL SUBJECT MIGHT ALSO BE DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL' STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT.

4.VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED A COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE AND REVIEWED MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED IN THE MEMBER STATES WITH REGARD TO THIS PROBLEM.THE MINISTERS AGREED NOT ONLY ON THE NEED FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES,BUT ALSO ON THE REQUIREMENT FOR A SYSTEM TO MONITOR THE QUALITY OF SUCH COURSES,AND FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO SUCH COURSES BY THE YOUNG.THEY STRESSED AS WELL THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING BOTH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROGRAMS.

5.SCHOOLING OF MIGRANTS'CHILDREN
THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED A PROPOSED DIRECTIVE ON SCHOOLING FOR CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS BUT WERE UNABLE TO REACH A DECISION,IN THE FACE OF GERMAN AND BRITISH RESISTANCE.ACCORDING TO UK PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY MARGARET JACKSON,THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE FOR TEACHING MOTHER TONGUES WOULD IMPOSE A GREATER BURDEN UPON THE UK,WITH ITS HIGHLY HETEROGENOUS SOCIETY,THAN UPON THE OTHER MEMBER STATES.SHE SAID THAT THE DIRECTIVE WOULD COST THE UK AN EXTRA 50 MILLIN POUNDS PER ANNUM,EVEN IF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TEACHERS WERE ALREADY AVAILABLE. PERMDEL SOURCES SAY THAT FRG OBJECTIONS WERE BASED ON COSTS ALONE,WHICH ARE ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 700 MILLION DEUTSCH MARKS AND 1.5 BILLION DEUTSCH MARKS PER ANNUM.THE MINISTERS HOPE TO REACH A FINAL DECISION DURING THEIR APRIL 1977 MEETING.NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A COMPROMISE ARE TO PROCEED IN THE INTERIM.

6.STANDARDIZATION OF FAMILY BENEFITS PAYMENTS
THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED BUT TOOK NO ACTION ON A PROPOSED REGULATION ON STANDARDIZATION OF FAMILY BENEFITS PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDE IN MEMBER STATES OTHER THAN THE COUNTRY OF EMPLOYMENT.
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FRANCE WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO PAY MIGRANT WORKERS FROM EC COUNTRIES FAMILY ALLOWANCES ACCORDING TO PROGRAMS IN FORCE IN COUNTRIES OF FAMILY RESIDENCE,WHILE THE OTHER EIGHT MEMBER STATES WILL APPLY PROGRAMS IN FORCE IN THE COUNTRY OF EMPLOYMENT.THE COMMISSION IS TO CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF THE PROBLEM.

7.SOCIAL FUND REPORT

THE MNISTERS DISCUSSED THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL FUND FOR THE 1975
FISCAL YEAR.THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION
TO FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE FUND IN EARLY
1977.

8.REPORT FROM HILLERY

EC COMMISSIONER VOUEL SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTERS A
REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE EC SOCIAL POLICY FROM HIS
PREDECESSOR,PATRICK HILLERY.THE REPORT CENTERED ON
THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM FOR
1974-1976: UNEMPLOYMENT,LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS,
AND PARTICIPATON OF SOCIAL PARTNERS.

9EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED EUROOPEAN
TRADE UNION INSTITUTE,A RESEARCH ORGANIZATION PRO-
MOTED BY THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION.
THE SUM OF 45,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT HAS BEEN EARMARKED
FOR THE INSTITUTE IN THE 1976 BUDGET BUT IS CURRENTLY
BLOCKED PENDING A DECISION BY THE FINANCE MINISTERS;
COREPER IS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR FREEING THE
FUNDS.
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